

Panel Discussion (contd); TLG-0013

1 MR. DEE WILLIS: RAD?

2 **TLG-0013** MR. GERRY POLLET: The
3 radiation. And the hazardous component of
4 these wastes may be as great or greater risk
5 and it certainly amplifies all the risks.

6 And if you don't have any
7 information about that, you're flying blind.
8 But whether it's transportation or if it's in
9 the burial grounds here, and we don't have any
10 of that, it's totally ignored, especially for
11 the burial grounds.

12 And I think I'd like to add to what
13 you said because you made a very interesting
14 point that I'd like to make sure it gets
15 captured for the record.

16 If we concentrate shipments to avoid
17 bad weather, then they have to redo the
18 calculation for the worker, the trucker
19 radiation dose, because it's going to take
20 longer to truck the waste and also for the
21 public radiation dose, because they're going to
22 be stuck in traffic next to it.

23 And that's very significant. Same
24 as the detour risk. And we do believe they
25 need to do those calculations on a route and

112

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TLG-0013 (contd)

1

1 site-specific level.

2

2 And it needs, then, to include the
3 impact on the accidents of the hazardous waste
4 component.

5 Crazily, and this is my last point
6 here, but it's very important that this EIS be
7 revised to do a real transportation analysis,
8 because it relies on the old '97 document.

9 That '97 document transportation
10 risk analysis is based on an assumption that
11 all the waste is treated before it's on the
12 highway; for instance, the remote-handled,
13 mixed transuranic waste.

14 And it acknowledges that untreated
15 waste has far greater impacts. And they don't
16 know what it is.

17 They don't know what the chemical
18 composition is, they don't know what the
19 impacts are. And it's much more stable after
20 treatment. And they only modeled
21 post-treatment.

22 And the same is true for once it's
23 at Hanford, they only modeled, for instance,
24 what the impact is if you got this
25 remote-handled transuranic waste to Hanford,

113

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TLG-0013 (contd); Panel Discussion (contd)

2

1 there's an earthquake, and they expected it to
2 kill 200 people offsite from the waste
3 management PEIS analysis, you won't find this
4 new one.

5 And 200 offsite fatal cancers. And
6 it's modeled on it coming after treatment, but
7 we know this stuff is coming without treatment..

8 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. Anymore
9 questions or comments?

10 MS. MAXINE HINES: What are
11 trenches going to be lined with?

12 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: The
13 Resource Conservation Recovery Act, it's a
14 federal law that a lot of states have taken on
15 thier own, so there's some -- in our case,
16 Washington state, regulations that require
17 about the same thing.

18 Basically what it is, you have a
19 layer of clay. On top of that, you have a
20 plastic liner. You have some space. You have
21 another liner, and then you have dirt.

22 And the thought is is if that first
23 top liner leaks, you can collect the stuff
24 between what's called the leachate, the liquid
25 between the two liners. Pump it out and

114

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 treat it.

2 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: What
3 makes the space?

4 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Typically
5 it's a fabric that looks like a bunch of Xs and
6 you lay it down. And it's usually about this
7 thick (indicating). And then you can also put
8 gravel in there as well.

9 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: Okay.

10 MR. DEE WILLIS: Does that
11 answer your question?

12 MS. MAXINE HINES: Uh-huh.

13 MR. DEE WILLIS: Anybody else
14 have a question?

15 MS. MAXINE HINES: I have
16 another one.

17 MR. DEE WILLIS: Keep going.

18 MS. MAXINE HINES: But it's
19 late. But, yeah, I have this long list.

20 When Gerry was talking, and he was
21 talking about the safety records of the trucks
22 that were hauling waste, they were appalling.

23 I would like other comments and hope
24 that that's not true.

25 MR. KEN NILES: I mentioned

115

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 that on some of the shipments, the western
2 states have negotiated certain agreements with
3 the U.S. Department of Energy.

4 One of those conditions -- and
5 again, this doesn't cover all shipments, but it
6 certainly does the higher activity, the
7 transuranic and some of the others.

8 One of the conditions in that is a
9 higher standard for the truck carrier. And
10 that is audited by one of the western states or
11 the U.S. Department of Energy with a state
12 observer.

13 Tri-State is, in fact, one of the
14 carriers. And they have, overall, they have a
15 pretty mixed record, frankly. I mean,
16 sometimes they're going real well, sometimes
17 they're not going real well.

18 With these shipments, the contract
19 requires them to use certain trucks that are
20 dedicated to this program and certain drivers
21 that are dedicated for this program.

22 And in these cases, they do meet
23 those standards for, again, these shipments.

24 MR. GERRY POLLET: Ken, are you
25 talking about WIPP shipments? Or are these new

116

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 ones from -- of transuranic to Hanford?

2 MR. KEN NILES: We got, the
3 western states, got the same agreement for
4 those shipments as well.

5 So all the agreements we have of
6 waste going out of Hanford to the Waste
7 Isolation Pilot Plant.

8 These other shipments that they've
9 talked about of transuranic waste coming to
10 Hanford, they have to operate under the same
11 provisions.

12 And carrier is a very important part
13 and the driver qualifications, as well, is a
14 very important part.

15 MS. MAXINE HINES: And that's
16 the stuff coming out --

17 MR. KEN NILES: Same thing.
18 Same thing.

19 MR. GERRY POLLET: That's for
20 the transuranic waste. That doesn't apply
21 for --

22 MR. KEN NILES: It doesn't
23 apply to most of the low-level shipments. And,
24 again, low-level doesn't always mean low
25 hazard. Sometimes it means high hazard.

117

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. GERRY POLLET: You know,
2 the other thing is I just saw, maybe other
3 people may have seen it, it's like waste
4 shipment was turned back by the Nevada test
5 site from Paducah last week. Paducah is
6 another DOE site.

7 Again, this is not an infrequent
8 occurrence of having trucked waste all the way
9 across the United States and having found that
10 it was leaking. That it wasn't what they
11 claimed it was.

12 Hanford has a long history of taking
13 waste at its burial grounds, and the waste is
14 not what it was manifested to be.

15 It has liquids, highly radioactive
16 materials that aren't supposed to be in there
17 are unknown, or chemical wastes that aren't
18 supposed to be in there.

19 And they've trucked it across the
20 country. It's not listed on the manifest. And
21 it's the worst nightmare for an emergency
22 responder.

23 We did an emergency response survey
24 a few years ago for how they were prepared.
25 And one of the things was, you know, it's great

118

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 when you know what's in the truck. That system
2 works, if it's followed.

3 But if they violate those manifest
4 requirements, which happens frequently with DOE
5 shipments, all bets are off.

6 The rule of thumb, they said,
7 applied. The emergency responders all talk
8 about the rule of thumb for these shipments.

9 And the rule of thumb is: You stick
10 your thumb up like this (indicating), and if
11 the truck is bigger than your thumb, you stay
12 back.

13 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I
14 disagree with Gerry. To characterize it as
15 prevalent or often occurring, it doesn't. It
16 has occurred.

17 And as far as HAZ-MAT teams and
18 first responders, dealing with situations like
19 this, this is the same situation that happens
20 with the 300 million hazardous material
21 shipments that occur in the United States every
22 year.

23 Occasionally you're going to come
24 across an unknown. 300 million shipments of
25 hazardous materials. 6,000, 7,000 shipments of

119

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 DOE radioactive materials, some percentage
2 isn't going to come across. HAZ-MAT teams are
3 used to that.

4 MR. DEE WILLIS: Shelley?

5 MS. SHELLEY CIMON: I guess I
6 wanted to qualify that Gerry's statistics were
7 from 1989.

8 MR. GERRY POLLET: '89.

9 MS. SHELLEY CIMON: So it was a
10 ways back. That was awhile ago. But it also
11 speaks to the issue of: We haven't been
12 collecting this information because of a lack
13 of funding.

14 And it would make sense to, if we're
15 going to start these campaigns, to look -- to
16 request funding.

17 For the state of Oregon to request
18 funding to track these shipments and pay
19 attention as each campaign starts.

20 MR. DEE WILLIS: Any more
21 questions or comments? Sir?

22 MR. PETER FARNAM: I just have
23 to respond to what you just said, when you said
24 because so many other shipments that are
25 non-DOE shipments have manifest problems, that

120

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 it sounded to me like you were saying: Well,
2 because we face all these other risks, these
3 additional risks shouldn't concern us as much.

4 Well, that's what it sounded like to
5 me. And the main difference that occurred to
6 me between most of those shipments and these
7 ones is that I have something to say about
8 these ones.

9 I don't have a lot to say about what
10 Dupont ships, and/or what they say they ship.
11 But the reason I'm here is because I have
12 something to say about your shipments.

13 And I don't care what -- I mean, I
14 do care a lot about what those -- but, I don't
15 have a lot to say about it.

16 And the reason I'm here is because I
17 want to tell you, I want to know what's in
18 those shipments, exactly; and I want them to be
19 what they say they are. And I want them to be
20 safe.

21 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I agree.
22 If I misled you, I apologize for that. All's I
23 was trying to do is say first responders and
24 HAZ-MAT teams are not surprised by unusual
25 situations. That was the only point I was

121

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 trying to make.

2 And I totally agree. And I do
3 appreciate the fact that you are speaking just
4 to my waste. And I understand that.

5 MR. PETER FARNAM: Well, yeah.
6 The Government's waste.

7 MR. GERRY POLLET: First
8 responders are trained to use caution in
9 response. That's the first rule; that's the
10 point.

11 But what we're faced with here is
12 the fact that DOE claims that its low-level
13 wastes are entirely self-regulated.

14 And you do have more of a say over a
15 private company shipping its chemical wastes to
16 a regulated firm for disposal, because that
17 regulated firm, that landfill is going to be
18 regulated by your state and the EPA.

19 Here's what you've got, is a sad and
20 sorry record. And I'm sorry, but it is a sorry
21 record of the Department of Energy shipping
22 waste across the country without proper
23 manifesting, traceability, and characterization
24 of wastes.

25 And what you have, because there is

122

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 no effective external regulation, they ship
2 waste to their own low-level burial grounds,
3 which they say are self-regulated. No one can
4 look at it.

5 They've just told the state of
6 Washington to bugger off in Federal Court.

7 And the bottom line is that lack of
8 regulation means that you have a higher
9 incidence of not doing the right thing with
10 tracking your wastes.

11 Not one private -- you can't point
12 to a private industry in America that has a
13 backlog of 30 years mixed or chemical wastes
14 sitting around in wooden boxes, metal boxes in
15 the snow and rain.

16 Anywhere else, there is not another
17 industry in America like it that is shipping
18 its wastes. And if you don't believe me, ask
19 the states and EPA.

20 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay, other
21 questions? Comments?

22 Thank you all for coming. I want to
23 thank, especially, Shelley Cimon.

24 MR. GERRY POLLET: I do want
25 to, now that we're closing, just remind you of

123

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Mark Twain's comment about communication, which
2 was "We have enough trouble communicating for
3 anyone to try to put any words off limit."

(9 : 30 p.m.)

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124

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